Jim Gent

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CI 513

Tech Activity: Web-Based Bookmarking

*Portaportal Username:* jim.gent

1. Portaportal seems like a convenient tool for sharing things with the class. A wiki would be more useful. As far as personal use, many web browsers, such as Google Chrome have built-in features that can synchronize the bookmarks of multiple computers. Having the feature built into a browser essentially provides the same functionality, but much more quickly. As for the bookmarking tool, it provides a great starting point for those who do not have the time or capability to create websites or wikis.
2. Delicious has a lot of cool information and functionality once you sort through the garbage. It requires very specific tags to provide anything useful. Still, once you figure out what you would like to search, there is something there that it worthwhile. I find myself wondering whether the usefulness of this website will either plateau or come crashing down as more and more users begin tagging websites. After a while, it could be no better than a Google search.
3. The two sites share a few common threads. They both deal with the bookmarking of websites. The both have a web-based interface, allowing access from anywhere in the world. They also both require members to join (for free). After this, the similarities mostly stop. Delicious allows the user to search through the websites saved and tagged by other users to create their own library. Portaportal, on the hand, requires a collection to be built from scratch. Both provide valuable resources to educators and students. Delicious provides a great research tool for teachers and students alike. It provides a fantastic starting point for projects, allowing the tags to lead to mostly relevant sites. Portaportal, on the other hand, provides a tool for the teacher to publish a more selective list of resources to students. This allows for the scope to be as narrow or as broad as necessary. The latter also provides a utility for groups of students to share research resources amongst their own groups.